

In the Specification:

Please replace original paragraphs **[0018]** and **[0020]** with the following amended paragraphs:

[0018] The remainder of the mounting for each of the base cutting assemblies 18 includes a lower tapered bearing cone 62 located on the shaft section 20 with its base adjacent the contaminant collector ~~52~~ 54. A lower bearing cup 64 is received on the bearing cone 62. An identical bearing cup 64 is located on top of the lower bearing cup and receives an upper tapered bearing cone 62 oriented with its base up. The input gears 32 and 34 are respectively splined to the tops of the respective base cutter shaft sections 20, and each is followed by a flat retainer nut 66, a lock nut 68 and a circular cover plate 70.

[0020] The operator of the invention is thought to be clear from the foregoing description. Suffice it to say that during operation of the base cutter assembly 10, the rotating gears will wear resulting in ferric particles being deposited in the oil contained in the gearbox 12. Since these particles are heavier than the oil, they ~~the~~ will gravitate to the bottom surfaces of the horizontal gear box section 14 and the wells 16, with the particles or contaminants in the section 14 eventually finding their way to the wells 16 as the machine carrying the base cutter assemblies 10 ~~46~~ moves over the undulations in the terrain resulting in the gear box 12 being tilted from side to side.